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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE,  
THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND OTHERS MEET IN THE  
INTERIM TO STUDY ACCOUNTABILITY TARGETS.

WHEREAS, the people of New Mexico share a vision of a  
world-class education system that prepares their children for  
success in the twenty-first century; and

WHEREAS, the New Mexico legislature has laid the  
essential groundwork needed to support an educational system  
with enhanced educational opportunities for all New Mexico  
students; and

WHEREAS, public schools in New Mexico have made progress  
in reducing the achievement gap; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico ranks second in the nation for  
education reform, school choice and children's access to free  
and reduced-cost breakfast and ranks fourth in the nation for  
a strong nutrition policy; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico is one of four states leading the  
nation in innovative school improvement strategies; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico ranks in the top ten states in grade  
three reading comprehension and in oral reading fluency for  
students in grades one, two and three; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico is one of only nine states with an  
approved highly qualified teacher plan and is one of eleven

1 states to have standards-based assessments aligned to strong  
2 content standards; and

3 WHEREAS, New Mexico is recognized for standards and  
4 benchmarks that are well aligned to advanced placement and  
5 college entrance examinations; and

6 WHEREAS, the secretary of public education and the  
7 educational community assert that it is not just assessments  
8 that will reform education in New Mexico, but that schools  
9 must be accountable for performance, instruction and  
10 improvement; and

11 WHEREAS, scientific research supports the use of  
12 formative "short-cycle" assessments to inform instruction for  
13 students; and

14 WHEREAS, the public education department supports the  
15 use of short-cycle assessments to address the differentiated  
16 learning needs of a diverse student population; and

17 WHEREAS, there were four hundred forty schools that did  
18 not make adequate yearly progress pursuant to New Mexico and  
19 federal accountability standards, largely because of the  
20 performance of various subpopulations;

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
22 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislative education study  
23 committee, in collaboration with the public education  
24 department, the legislative council service, public school  
25 superintendents, directors of special education, directors of

1 bilingual education and other appropriate educators, form a  
2 study group to meet during the interim to discuss the  
3 possible use of short-cycle assessments as an indicator of  
4 student progress and to recommend an accountability mechanism  
5 for the specific subpopulations based on a growth model; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study group study the  
7 impact of using the office of special education targets in  
8 lieu of New Mexico accountability targets; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study group examine  
10 opportunity-to-learn factors as a companion to New Mexico  
11 accountability targets; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study group report its  
13 findings to the appropriate interim committee of the  
14 legislature by December 1, 2008; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
16 transmitted to the secretary of public education, the chair  
17 of the legislative education study committee and the director  
18 of the legislative council service. \_\_\_\_\_

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